



## ARIZONA COMMISSION ON HOMELESSNESS AND HOUSING

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### Commission Meeting

Tuesday, November 19, 2013

10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

DES Director's Conference Room

1717 W Jefferson Street, Phoenix, Arizona 85007

### Meeting Minutes

#### **Commissioners Present:**

Michael Traylor, Co-Chair, Arizona Department of Housing (ADOH); Melanie Starns (Sitting in for Co-Chair Clarence H. Carter), Department of Economic Security (DES); Brian Spicker, Valley of the Sun United Way (VSUW); Darlene Newsom, United Methodist Outreach Ministries (UMOM); Karen Hellman (Sitting in for Charles Ryan), Arizona Department of Corrections (ADC); Mark Holleran, Central Arizona Shelter Services (CASS); Mary Murphy (Sitting in for Tammy Paz-Combs), Governor's Office for Children, Youth and Families (GOCYF); Pat Benchik (Sitting in for Will Humble), Arizona Department of Health Services (ADHS); Ted Williams, Arizona Behavioral Health Corporation (ABC) and Terri Leveton, Nova Safe Haven.

#### **Commissioners Absent:**

Clarence H. Carter, Co-Chair, DES; Charles Ryan, ADC; David Sherman, The Salvation Army, White Mountain Outpost; Frank Migali, Department of Education (ADE); Jenifer Thornton, City of Sierra Vista; Robert Halliday, Arizona Department of Public Safety (DPS); Tammy Paz-Combs, GOCYF; Ted Vogt, Arizona Department of Veteran's Services (AZDVS) and Will Humble, ADHS.

#### **Staff Present:**

Raoul Sada, DES; Donna Bleyle, DES; Amy Schwabenlender, VSUW; April Miles, ADHS; Charles Sullivan, ABC Housing; Karia Basta, ADOH; Michelle Skurka, ADHS and Priscilla Cruz, DES.

#### **Guests Present:**

Brande Meade, Maricopa Association of Governments (MAG); Mattie Lord, UMOM; Patti Caldwell, Our Family Services; Charlene Flaherty, Corporation for Supportive Housing (CSH) and David Bridge, Human Services Campus (HSC).

#### **Welcome and Introductions:**

Co-Chair Traylor called the meeting to order at 10:05 a.m. and welcomed everyone to the meeting.

#### **Approval of the Minutes:**

Melanie Starns called for a motion to approve the Tuesday, September 17, 2013 meeting minutes as written. The motion for approval was made by Mary Murphy and seconded by Darlene Newsom. The Commissioners in attendance unanimously approved the motion.

#### **Committee Reports**

*Housing Committee:* Co-Chair Traylor reported on this committee stating the feedback from the launch of the Housing Locator tool has been notable; affirming that case workers currently utilizing the tool have stated it's effective and working with great results. Karia Basta reported to the committee on the

Housing Locator tool's effectiveness, stating the only drawback is getting landlords and programs to inform us of available units, thereby keeping the tool up-to-date. Karia further informed the committee that Social Serve is issuing follow-up phone calls for all properties listed in order to acquire the most current up-to-date information on available units. Karia informed the committee of inquiries by other States on our usage of the Housing Locator tool; these other States are interested in the utilization of the locator tool and our results while employing it. Karia identified this interest as positive feedback since other agencies are noting our accomplishment with the tool.

*Data Management Committee:* Commissioner Williams reported on this committee stating the realization of a common HMIS tool is ongoing and to date there have been no material changes. Karia Basta also reported on this committee stating that at the Bowman Conference, the software provider for the HMIS system, Bowman reported they will begin to incorporate the Service Prioritization Decision Assistance Tool (SPDAT). Having attended the Bowman Conference, Karia and Charles Sullivan report the likelihood of achieving State conformity with the potential utilization of a common assessment tool.

*Continuum of Care Committee:* Co-Chair Traylor reported on this committee stating how the co-ordination effort between the Continuums is still ongoing. Co-Chair Traylor discussed that Symmetric Solutions is going out-of-business, they are the service provider for BOS and Pima County, thereby presenting the Continuums with an opportunity to further co-ordinate data information and management. Pima County will be utilizing the technical assistance of the Pima County IT department for their service provider while BOS is working with CIR, which also is the service provider for Maricopa County, to become the service provider for BOS.

*Studies and Surveys Committee:* Commissioner Spicker reported on this committee stating he is continuing to bring forward and analyze data from the various studies and surveys already done, but that there were no new items to report.

*Homeless Services Committee:* Commissioner Newsom reported on this committee stating how excited she is about the success of the SPDAT assessment tool and how this tool can be a major step forward in the process of ending homelessness.

### **SPDAT Presentation:**

Brande Meade, Mattie Lord and David Bridge gave a presentation on the SPDAT assessment tool. Brande Meade began the presentation by giving an overview on how all Continuums of Care were mandated by the HEARTH Act to develop coordinated assessment nearly two years ago. Brande further went on to discuss that with assistance from HUD, Maricopa County was able to identify and develop three main goals to implement as a continuum: implementing coordinated assessment was one of the top three goals. One of the key pieces of the coordinated assessment process is the assessment tool, not only does the tool assess the needs of individuals and families within the community but it also prioritizes the housing intervention that's the best fit for that individual or family. Brande further informed the committee that coordinated assessment is considered to be not just an assessment tool but a system change, and system change is not easy. After the examination of a couple of different tools by the committee, the SPDAT assessment tool was confirmed as being the best fit for our needs. The SPDAT tool was adopted by the MAG Continuum in August, 2013 and has experienced great success.

David Bridge then spoke about the reasons why Maricopa County decided to utilize the SPDAT assessment tool, giving a very brief overview on the other tools that were also studied. The single most significant reason why the SPDAT assessment tool was chosen was the prioritization capacity. This function of SPDAT utilizes the assessment score received by each individual or family and categorizes it, indicating whether the best fit for each is to be placed into permanent supportive housing, rapid rehousing or basic shelter assistance. David also mentioned the compatibility and ease of use of the system.

Mattie Lord concluded the presentation by first stating the core premise of the SPDAT and F-SPDAT assessment tool is to get the right household to the right program at the right time in order to end their homelessness, based on the evidence of strengths, understanding of needs and housing status. Mattie then discussed how the tool can be used as a sort of funnel to help us direct the homeless population into their appropriate categories based on their assessed needs. With the majority of individuals needing minimal assistance, such as temporary housing or shelter and then a smaller group of individuals who would benefit from more intensive assistance, like permanent supportive housing. Mattie then discussed the different categories within the tool and how the tool generates it's score. The higher the score the more assistance required.

#### **Announcements:**

- Co-Chair Traylor announced the Veteran's Day celebration at Cloudbreak, Victory Place, was a great success, and informed the committee of the announcement that we will end Veteran's Chronic Homelessness in Maricopa County by the next Arizona StandDown, which is scheduled in February 2014.
- Pat Benchik announced ADH was awarded one of the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) Grants, a 3-year \$700,000 per year grant.
- Amy Schwabenlender announced the next Project Connect event will be December 10, 2013 in Phoenix at the Monte Vista Nazarene Church, volunteers are always welcome.
- Charlene Flaherty announced that should anyone be interested in participating in an information session being held on next Thursday at the Valley of the Sun United Way for the 2014 Supportive Housing Institute please feel free to contact her.
- Patti Caldwell announced the coordinated intake sub-committee, which is scheduled to meet tomorrow, is putting forth a draft of the flow of coordinated intake to the committee. They will also be discussing the SPDAT assessment tool.
- Donna Bleyle announced the Arizona StandDown is in scheduled for February 14-16, 2014; should anyone wish to contribute, volunteer or assist in any way please contact <http://www.arizonastanddown.org>.

#### **Future Agenda Items:**

- Patti Caldwell to come give an update on Pima County coordinated intake.
- Co-Chair Traylor suggested the commission forward any future requests to Donna Bleyle.
- DHS to give presentation on new SAMHSA Grant.

#### **Call To The Public:**

- No comments were issued at this time.

**Next Meeting:**

The next ACHH meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, January 21, 2014.

**Adjourn:**

Co-Chair Trailor inquired if there were any further discussion items, none were issued. Co-Chair Trailor adjourned the meeting at 11:38 a.m.